

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

18. (Currently Amended) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element the annular band having a width not substantially greater than necessary to resist, ~~the reinforcing material resisting~~ loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe.

19. (Original) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end.

20. (Original) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein each section includes opposed male and female ends and the outside pipe diameter of each section between its respective male and female ends is substantially the same.

21. (Original) The corrugated pipe of claim 20, wherein the outside diameter of the female end of each section is substantially the same as the outside pipe diameter.

22. (Original) The corrugated pipe of claim 19, wherein the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and an annular valley therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, and wherein the annular channel is formed in one of the crests.

23. (Original) The corrugated pipe of claim 22, wherein the outside diameter of the male end is selected to permit mating and sealing engagement with the female end.

24. (Original) The corrugated pipe of claim 22, wherein each section includes an annular intermediate corrugation adjacent the male end defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, the intermediate corrugation being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated.

25. (Original) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the

sealing element, the reinforcing material resisting loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe;

wherein the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end;

wherein the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and an annular valley therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, and wherein the annular channel is formed in one of the crests;

wherein each section includes an annular intermediate corrugation adjacent the male end defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, the intermediate corrugation being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated; and

wherein the outside diameter of the intermediate corrugation is less than the outside pipe diameter.

26. (Currently Amended) A corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section,

wherein the diameter of the female end is substantially the same as the diameter of the corrugated pipe; and

the male end includes a corrugation having a recessed area for accommodating an annular sealing element for sealingly engaging an interior surface of the female end; and

the corrugation height is such that the corrugation and the annular sealing element can be accommodated in the female end;

the corrugated pipe section further comprising an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position that allows the reinforcing material to retain sealing engagement between the female end and the annular sealing element during use of the pipe, the reinforcing material having a width not substantially greater than necessary to resist loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe.

27. (Original) The corrugated pipe of claim 26, wherein the male end also includes a second corrugation that can be accommodated in the female end.

28. (Original) The corrugated pipe of claim 26, wherein the female end includes a distal end into which the male end is inserted, and a third corrugation with a crest that extends radially outwardly at least as far as the distal end of the female end.

29. (Currently Amended) A corrugated pipe for accommodating fluid flow, the pipe consisting of a material that deforms in response to internal water pressure and including two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular reinforcement disposed around the exterior surface of the female end, the annular reinforcement having a width that is greater than the width of the sealing element

and is disposed substantially upstream from the sealing element to resist loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe,

wherein the reinforcement has a width that is not substantially greater than necessary to resist loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe.